

## **Community Clinical Oncology Program**

The Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP) was established by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 1983. Through this program, community physicians work with scientists conducting NCI-supported clinical trials. Clinical trials are research studies conducted with patients or with healthy people. They are designed to answer specific questions about the effectiveness of new ways to prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat cancer.

Participation in the CCOP benefits patients and physicians in the community and scientists in research centers. The program helps in the transfer of the latest research findings to the community level. The CCOP increases the number of patients and physicians who can participate in clinical trials operated at major research centers and allows scientists to conduct large-scale cancer prevention and control studies. In this way, results of clinical trials occur more quickly.

Facilities participating in the CCOP are required to affiliate with at least one research base. (A research base may be an NCI-supported clinical cooperative group or cancer center.) The CCOP participants use research protocols developed and provided by the research bases.

The location of the CCOP offices can be obtained from the Cancer Information Service (CIS), an NCI-supported nationwide telephone service for cancer patients and their families, the public, and health care professionals. CIS information specialists have extensive training in

providing up-to-date and understandable information about cancer. They can answer questions in English and Spanish and can send free printed material. In addition, CIS offices serve specific geographic areas and have information about cancer-related services and resources in their region.

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### **Sources of National Cancer Institute Information**

#### **Cancer Information Service**

Toll-free: 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

TTY (for deaf and hard of hearing callers): 1-800-332-8615

#### **NCI Online**

##### ***Internet***

Use <http://www.cancer.gov> to reach NCI's Web site.

##### ***CancerMail Service***

To obtain a contents list, send e-mail to [cancermail@icicc.nci.nih.gov](mailto:cancermail@icicc.nci.nih.gov) with the word "help" in the body of the message.

#### **CancerFax® fax on demand service**

Dial 301-402-5874 and listen to recorded instructions.

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